

Thompson Trails Committee MINUTES

Monday, April 5, 2021, 7:00 pm via the Zoom online platform

In attendance: Karen Durlach, John Kochinskas, Brian Loffredo, Charlie Obert, David Ostrowski, Paul Provost; LyAnn Graff, TLGV; Rec. Dir. Lesley Munshower; Town Planner Tyra Penn-Gesek; NPS Stephanie Stroud; Selectman Amy St. Onge; Pat Cheever; Scout Kaitlin Larsson

Meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. Karen moderated.

Charlie made a MOTION, seconded by Brian, to accept minutes of February 1, 2021. All in favor.

Correspondence:

- Karen responded on behalf of Trails Committee to request from CFPA & DEEP for a support letter to the state concerning budgeting for open space, parks and trails. Additional request forwarded from CFPA for input to DEEP by April 19 during public comment period concerning Open Space programs.

Finances: Deposit made for trailer. Bill processed to pay Earthworks for 2020 Port-o-john facilities. Brian reported an addition of \$250 from Walmart recognizing his volunteer time.

Citizens Comments: Kaitlin Larsson of Girl Scout Troop 1066 presented her vision of creating a “Story Walk” of nursery rhyme plaques on a local trail as her Eagle Project. Members suggested the trail behind Drafters on Rt. 12 would be an appropriate location and could tie in with the Library. She will look at the suggested trail and assemble a more complete proposal to present, exploring the possibility of benches.

LyAnn shared her notification of the RiMaConn Relay Race Aug. 28, which will pass through Thompson again. Volunteers will be needed. The Selectmen’s Office has the official request for use of town roadways.

Trail updates:

- 4/4 John, Brian, Paul & additional help, with loaned equipment, cleared obstructions on ALTSP from 193 to Lowell Davis Rd. (Last fall Mass. line to 193 was cleaned up.) Some of the rocks at Lowell Davis parking area were moved to allow safer road parking and safer horse access. Brian reported there are no issues from Lowell Davis to the new bridge. Except there is trash under the Rt. 200 bridge (scouts to clear?) LyAnn reported TLGV HTAP team will be doing their assessment this week from Sand Dam to Lowell Davis.
- John & Paul have re-blazed the Tri State Marker Trail. Paul suggested we add some signage in appropriate areas to indicate this is a loop trail.
- Paul will suggest a date for a site-walk of a proposed new side trail off ALTSP to access the stone culvert.
- John was alerted by a resident and will confirm information about trees down on Blain Rd., send to Tyra, who will forward to USACE.
- ***Motion made by John, seconded by Charlie, to spend \$600 for handicap accessible port-o-john unit from May 1 to Oct. 31, 2021.*** Lesley will email Earthworks to order. Charlie noted Earthworks wanted to level area with gravel for easier cleaning.
- Amy St. Onge will bring request to DPW about the worst ALTSP section under 395 overpass that has drainage issues and still needs surfacing.
- Unanswered: Do we have stone dust supply or funding?
- Equipment: Deposit made on trailer but there is no promised delivery date. Karen contacted and is waiting to hear back from SustainableCT about whether their crowdfunding site is an option for raising funds for mower attachment.

Train Wreck site park project:

- Stephanie reported Putnam Interact Rotary Club, recruited for the youth engagement project, is creating a presentation interpreting the Train Wreck. We are waiting for a date from UCONN students for their report. Both will be presented sometime in May (date to be determined) in a virtual Community Presentation, along with an Action Plan. Goal is to generate a report, outlining 3 possible options (initial key site improvements, doing more & a “deluxe” version)
- Stephanie shared preliminary Action Plan and requested inputs, much of which Tyra can furnish from prior documents. PHOTOS needed of trails, events, Thompson features.
- Next NPS call with Tyra scheduled for 4/14, 11:00
- Tyra exploring CTHumanities grant which could cover design and fabrication of some of the “Windows on the Past” signage

Events:**• CT Trails Day:**

John leading a 3-mile paddle 6/5, 10am, leaving from behind Drafters; 15 people max.

Charlie registering a Train Wreck park event, with Joe Iarmartino

CFPA encouraging self-guided walks: list & describe on CT Trails Day website

6/5 4pm East Thompson Fire Dpt. barbecue

Lesley to request time on WINY to promote activities

- **Turkey Trot 2021:** meeting in May; Lesley to contact USACE for pavilion reservations; Centerville Bank agreed to be Title Sponsor

Social Media/PR/maps

- Z-fold map project: Tyra compiling assets for Marketing Consultant by 4/8; NEEDS PHOTOS WITH PEOPLE
- Lesley & Brian can now post to Trails Facebook page
- Use #thompsonct on Instagram posts
- mapholders at kiosks need replacing

T Shirts: can be sold at May 1 Makers Fair

Trail Census: Charlie checked battery recently

Other Business

- Saturday April 10 9-noon Riverside Park clean-up
- Crosswalk & signage needed at state road Rt. 193; better pedestrians signs needed at trail crossings

Motion & second to adjourn. Meeting adjourned 8:49 p.m.

NEXT BUSINESS MEETING: Monday, June 7, 2021, 7:00 p.m.